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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Anti-Trust Settlement

The proposed settlement between the Justice Department and Microsoft is weak, will not stop future abuses, and does not protect consumers. This settlement favors Microsoft to such a degree that it would appear that Microsoft's donations to the Republican party and the Bush presidential campaign were a quid pro quo, and this directly affected the course of the Justice Department in settling the case. As a consumer, I find it incredible that the defendant in this case has gotten so much influence regarding the nature of the punishment. This is not justice and it's not a remedy for proven anti-trust violations.

The settlement does not address unfair advantages Microsoft has gained using illegal behavior. Companies have been destroyed, not through fair competition, but rather by Microsoft's monopoly tactics to maintain and increase their market share. For all practical purposes, there is no longer any competition in the browser market. Microsoft's competitors have been harmed and many companies completely destroyed.

The proposed restrictions will not prevent further abuses. Just look at the features that Microsoft has bundled, or in some cases excluded, in its new Windows XP just released in October of 2001. It was proven in the anti-trust trial that Microsoft attempted to coerce, bully, and illegally obtain and maintain a monopoly with multimedia application technology to the detriment of Real Media, Apple Computer, and others. They include their own multimedia player and exclude other similar products from other companies. By removing support and making it difficult for consumers to add competing products that are often superior to Microsoft's bundled products, consumers have been harmed.

They have removed support for Java from Windows XP which will disrupt e-commerce and Java based applications delivered over the Internet. This has harmed Sun and other companies that have invested heavily in Java based technology that Microsoft considers a threat to their monopoly. Microsoft has "modified" their version of another technology, JavaScript, the programming language for Web browsers. These changes to Microsoft's implementation of JavaScript are intended to hijack the previous JavaScript standard and make it their own. As a result, only Microsoft Web browsers will handle this new standard properly. The examples go on and on. Consumers have been and continue to be harmed.

The proposed 3 member panel that will oversee Microsoft will likely be biased in favor of Microsoft, or at the very least, not fair in protecting consumers. With one member chosen by Microsoft, one chosen by the Justice Department, and the third chosen by these two members, the judgment of the panel will be questionable. With their oversight

activities done in secret and their salaries paid by Microsoft, it looks like the fix was in and Microsoft won.

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